

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

AUGUST 18, 2009

Request to First Five LA to Preserve Black Infant Health Program

On July 28, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed an amendment to the Budget Act of 2009 in order to close a \$60 billion budget gap. This amendment called for eliminating State General Funds for various programs including the Black Infant Health Program (\$3.9 million statewide). Los Angeles County received \$1.3 million to support five (5) community-based agencies to provide services to pregnant and parenting African Americans. A loss of this magnitude in funding will mean elimination of services to approximately 671 clients, and will stress the service systems currently in place in the First 5 LA Best Babies Collaboratives. These cuts will directly affect African American women in poverty that are currently being assisted throughout their pregnancy, could result in an increase in infant mortality, and an increase in the disparities in birth outcomes between African Americans and other race/ethnicities in Los Angeles County.

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

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KNABE _____

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AUGUST 18, 2009
PAGE 2**

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Request First 5 LA to consider an annual agreement of \$766,058 with the Department of Public Health to support the five community-based agencies currently providing services in Los Angeles County to address disparities in birth outcomes among African American women; and

Direct the Director of DPH to use the First 5 LA funds as a match to draw down approximately \$575,713 in additional federal funds to support this effort, closing the \$1.3 million local budget gap.

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